

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 /011 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7394

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), CO, VE, BR, AR, BL

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT

REF: STATE 92289

1. DATE FOR VISIT SATISFACTORY. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: A) IF WE HAVE TIME BETWEEN ARRIVAL AND LUNCH, GO DIRECTLY TO THE CHANCERY FOR BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION WITH CT; B) WORKING LUNCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTER; C) SESSION WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ; D) MEETING WITH ONE OR MORE KEY MINISTERS (I HAVE IN MIND MINISTER OF MINES HERNANDEZ, MINISTER OF BASIC INDUSTRIES LAURIA, AND/OR MINISTER OF INFORMATION DIEGO ARRIA; PEREZ GUERRERO WILL UNFORTUNATELY BE IN PARIS); E) PRESS CONFERENCE. THAT EVENING I WOULD HOST A RECEPTION FOR LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS, GOV AND CIVIC LEADERS. I SHOULD NOTE THAT WITH PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER KEY MINISTERS AWAY ON THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PIN IT ALL DOWN DEFINITELY UNTIL AFTER THEIR RETURN ON MAY 5 WHICH WILL RUN IT UP TO THE LAST MINUTE. IF THE ABOVE SEEMS SATISFACTORY, HOWEVER, WE WILL WORK ALONG THOSE LINES.

2. AS TO PRESS, I SUGGEST THE VISIT BE HANDLED IN MATTER OF FACT, STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY. THE PURPOSE SHOULD BE EXPLAINED AS A NATURAL FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR  
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FAMILIARIZATION AND GENERAL CONSULTATION SINCE BECOMING ASST. SECRETARY. WE THINK A PRESS CONFERENCE IS A MUST. YOU WILL ALSO PROBABLY BE MET BY PRESS UPON ARRIVAL. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND FORMAL ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS, BUT YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AT THE AIRPORT. WE WILL PROVIDE YOU SHORTLY WITH A SEPARATE CABLE ON PRESS MATTERS--WHAT TO EXPECT, ETC.

3. AS TO TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH GOV, THERE WILL BE ONE MATTER FOREMOST AND OBSESSIVELY IN THEIR MINDS: PEREZ' VISIT TO WASHINGTON. FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN WHAT THEY WILL WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS THAT VISIT, AGENDA, ETC. (WE ARE REPLYING SEPARATELY TO STATE 091072 ON THEMES FOR THE PEREZ VISIT WHICH YOU MAY WISH TO PERUSE IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR VISIT HERE.) TWO OTHER TOPICS THAT WILL BE OF PRIME INTEREST, AND WHICH YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ARE A) CUBA (THEY WILL WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCE, ETC.); AND B) HUMAN RIGHTS (WHICH MAY BE VERY TIMELY SINCE GENERAL VIDELA ARRIVES FOR A FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT THE NEXT DAY, MAY 11). THEY MAY ALSO WISH TO RAISE PANAMA AND SUPPORT FOR OUR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. FOR OUR PART YOU MAY WISH TO "DEBRIEF" PEREZ ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP. I THINK IT MAY ALSO BE USEFUL TO MAKE A POINT OF DISCUSSING WITH MINISTER OF MINES HERNANDEZ (AND PERHAPS THE PRESIDENT) THE MATTER OF PENDING OIL NATIONALIZATION PROBLEMS, ON THE THEME OF CLEANING UP PENDING IRRITATIONS FOR THE STATE VISIT.

4. I HOPE YOU WILL STAY AT THE RESIDENCE WITH US.  
VAKY

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